

The American Heritage Rivers can help accomplish this in four ways:

1. To recognize outstanding community-led efforts. The American Heritage Rivers initiative is the most important recognition of local river efforts in 20 years.

2. To serve as models of the most innovative, successful and sustainable approaches to river restoration and protection for communities across the United States. The lessons learned from these models can be applied to programs across the country.

3. To ensure that federal agencies are co-operating to the greatest extent possible. At a time of declining federal resources, the Administration believes the decisions about prioritizing federal programs should come from the affected communities.

4. To encourage greater agency cooperation across disciplines and programs. There is a continuing need to integrate the environmental, economic and historic disciplines of not only the federal government, but state and local governments as well.

19. Q: What protection is there in the AHRI for the rights of those in a community that do not favor a designation?

A: As stated in the June 20 Federal Register Notice, "A local mechanism will be required that allows members of a community to comment on the nomination of a river or river stretch by their community."

The nomination process will be fully controlled, discussed and organized at the local level. The concerns of all members of a community should be aired as the nomination is prepared. Communities submitting applications should make opportunities available for members of the local public to comment on the nomination. Elected officials are expected to participate in the nomination process. The Administration will also make public the nominations that it receives.

20. Q: Will a designation application gain points in the scoring process if it has bipartisan support?

A: Yes. Bipartisan support will help a community demonstrate that it meets the criterion of broad community support.

21. Q: Would requests for federal agency help to prepare for participation in the Smithsonian Institute's 1998 American Folklife Festival be an appropriate activity under the AHRI?

A: Yes. The community defines appropriate activities under the American Heritage Rivers initiative.

22. Q: Could local requests for federal grants and cooperative assistance to improve use of river water in irrigation be recognized as part of an AHR designation?

A: Again, the community defines appropriate activities under the American Heritage Rivers initiative. If a community decided to seek federal grants and cooperative assistance to improve use of river water in irrigation that would definitely be considered if the river gained American Heritage River status. The American Heritage Rivers initiative would not alter or affect any laws or rights relating to river or water flows.

23. Q: Are applications for designation required to include specific projects for implementation under the designation? If yes, what is the impact on other projects in the designated area that are not included in the designation application?

A: One of the criteria for designation is that communities have in hand, or are developing, a well-defined plan of action for the river. Projects and products, including any anticipated impacts beyond the designated river area, are part of this plan of action. Other components of the action plan are community vision, operating procedures and policies, description of how the proposal takes into account existing plans for the area, public participation and public edu-

cation, committed and anticipated resources, schedule of actions, the community's expectation of the federal role, obstacles to community action, including those the community believes can be resolved by joint federal, state and local support, and measures of success.

There is not necessarily an impact on other projects in the designated area that are not included in the designation application. Some projects, of course, may be dependent on each other.

24. Q: Can an AHR designation create a situation to allow one of its projects to circumvent existing and required local and/or regional planning processes? If not, would an application for designation be eligible for consideration if specific projects were not mentioned, but the application stressed the desire to acquire designation to attain an increased federal focus to aid in encouraging and supporting local, regional and state planning processes that would result in projects that are in compliance with local, state and federal requirements?

A: No. American Heritage Rivers designation will not be a means for projects to circumvent local or regional planning processes. Quite the contrary. The goal of American Heritage Rivers is to look to local or regional planning processes and to ensure that the federal agencies are cooperating sufficiently to streamline processes to help communities realize their goals wherever possible. All actions, by all involved with the initiative at the federal, state and local levels, must take place within existing laws and regulations.

If the community wished to identify appropriate roles for and services from the federal agencies, assistance with local, state and regional planning processes would be eligible. All the projects under consideration in a designated area do not necessarily have to be mentioned in the application. However, to the extent that these projects demonstrate how the community meets the criteria, including broad community support and strategies that lead to action, their inclusion is to the benefit of the applying community.

25. Q: Is it the intent of the AHRI to designate rivers on the basis of demonstrated historical, cultural, economic and environmental significance, or to designate rivers based on the merits of proposed projects?

A: Both. It is the intent of the American Heritage Rivers to designate rivers on the basis of their demonstrated historical, cultural, economic and environmental significance and the commitment the communities have to preserving and restoring these resources. Projects identified by the community should integrate, to the largest extent possible, the environmental, historic and economic aspects of their communities.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF REV. DR. JAMES W. BATTLE, SR.

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of the Reverend Dr. James W. Battle Sr. Reverend Battle has served as pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Saint Paul, MN, since June 1972. His distinguished career and commitment to the community should serve as an example to all.

Pastor Battle answered his call to the ministry and moved with his family to Nashville,

TN, in order to attend the American Baptist College. He graduated and became the chaplain of the State Prison, and later a counselor at Meharry Medical College. In 1972, he accepted the position as pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Saint Paul, MN. In 1977, the pastor received his master's of divinity from the Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, and earned his doctorate of ministry degree from the United Seminary in New Brighton, MN, in 1985.

Under his leadership, Mount Olivet has steadily grown. Shortly after his arrival, he directed the construction of a new church building and revived Bible study classes. These improvements have resulted in additional services being provided by the church, as well as expansions to the church facility.

Aside from being a dynamic leader of his church, Pastor Battle has extended his energies to the community. He has served as: co-founder of the Saint Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Congregations; member of the St. Paul Urban League; member of the Council of Black Minnesotans; member of the Rainbow Coalition; and chairman of the Minority Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Transit Commission.

In addition, the Reverend has organized his community at several levels. He was an organizer of the march of the State capitol in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1979, and most recently helped coordinate the Minnesota contingency to the Million Man March in Washington, DC, which departed from and returned to Mount Olivet. Currently, he is also involved with a Gang Summit at Mount Olivet, the African-American Parent Group, Native American Special Project, and Lao Family Community Services, all in Saint Paul.

In 1996, I was privileged to be present when Pastor Battle received Luther Seminary's annual Race, Church, and Change Award. He has also been the recipient of the S.E. Hall Community Service Award from the Saint Paul Urban League, and the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award for Outstanding Achievement and Contribution in the area of religion in 1992 and 1993.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Reverend Battle and his family for all of his accomplishments as he celebrates 25 years with Mount Olivet. I would also like to thank him for serving his church and community with such dedication and devotion and hope that he and his family are blessed with greater endeavors in the future. Happy Retirement.

IN HONOR OF PUERTO RICO ON ITS CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the citizens of Puerto Rico on Constitution Day, July 25, 1997. The people of Puerto Rico established the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for the very same reasons our forefathers wrote the Constitution of the United States of America, to establish themselves as a democracy.

The Puerto Rican Constitution ensures basic welfare and human rights for the people, enshrines the idea of a government which reflects the will of the people, and pays tribute